



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Nineteen cities have been selected for further evaluation as potential sites for a Downtown People Mover (DPM) demonstration, Robert E. Patricelli, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), announced today.

The DPM project is intended to show whether relatively simple, fully automated transit systems can provide a reliable and economical solution to local circulation problems in congested downtown areas, and thereby contribute to the revitalization of our central cities.

Patricelli pointed out that proposals were received from 38 cities to participate in the demonstration of the feasibility and public acceptance of operating a relatively simple, fully automated people mover system in the demanding environment of an urban downtown area. "The results of this preliminary evaluation are most encouraging," the Administrator said. "Because of the widespread interest and excellent proposals received for this important project, even this initial screening process has been most difficult," he added.

The 19 cities that have successfully completed the preliminary evaluation process and will proceed into detailed evaluation are:

Anaheim, California; Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Bellevue, Washington; Cleveland, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Detroit, Michigan; Houston, Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Jacksonville, Florida; Los Angeles, California; Memphis, Tennessee; Miami, Florida; New York, New York; Norfolk, Virginia; Sacramento, California; St. Louis, Missouri; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Seattle, Washington.



The UMTA Administrator further explained that some of these cities would be eliminated early in the detailed evaluation phase, so that a smaller group (six to ten) would be selected as finalists.

Administrator Patricelli said that a comprehensive analysis of the finalists, including on-site inspections, will be made by UMTA in October and November. He indicated that the results of this final review will be announced by late November and that the selected sites, up to three, will be invited at that time to submit capital grant applications for 80 percent funding of preliminary engineering on their proposed projects.

This first screening step by UMTA involved the elimination of DPM proposals for failing to provide adequate demonstration of one or more of the following:

1. that adequate planning for the project had been performed, and that sufficient data was provided to permit evaluation of the merits of the project;
2. that the project was consistent with the approved regional transportation plan;
3. that there was support from all elements of the community that share in the responsibility for the project and that the project was endorsed by appropriate local officials;
4. that adequate financial resources to fund the local share of the capital costs of the project were firmly identified;
5. that financial resources to fund any deficits that may result from continuing operations and maintenance of the system had been explored;
6. that adequate technological resources to implement and operate the system would be provided; and
7. that the project complied with all requirements under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended.

Following UMTA's announcement of the DPM project last April, 65 cities submitted initial letters of interest. Of this number, 38 cities actually submitted formal proposals to UMTA's Office of Research and Development.